



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool–lower primary
(ages 3–6+; years preschool to 2)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social capabilities, Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding
- **Cross-curriculum priorities:** sustainability, Aboriginal culture

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Language and literacy
- Creative and critical thinking
- Intercultural understanding
- Sustainability themes
- Aboriginal cultural themes

THEMES

- Family, community and culture
- Diversity
- Friendship
- Sustainability and nature
- belonging and developing a love for place
- family: especially sibling relationships
- Aboriginal Australian cultural themes of connection to the land and past traditions, and the sense of belonging to country.

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia and Raewyn Caisley

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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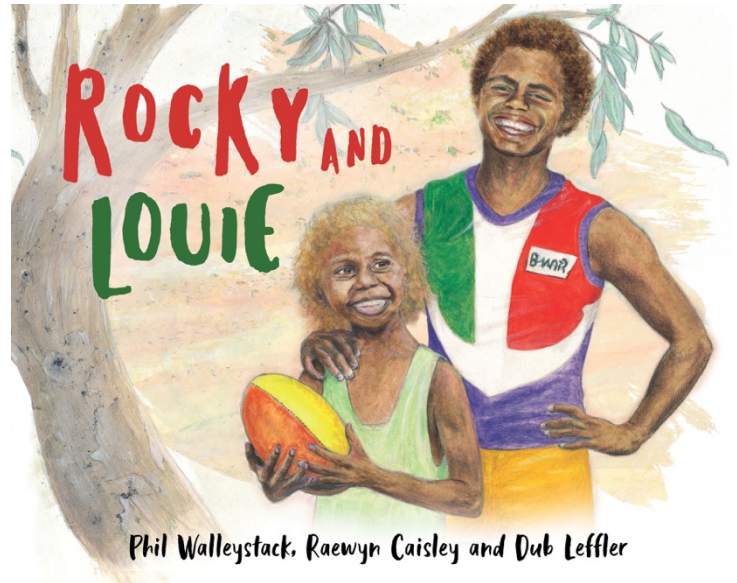
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Rocky and Louie

Phil Walleystack, Raewyn Caisley
and Dub Leffler



PLOT SUMMARY

Louie's big brother, Rocky, has big dreams and wants to chase them. But Louie doesn't want him to forget where he belongs . . .

Rocky teaches younger Louie about footy, but also about belonging and past traditions in a series of moving scenes. When the time comes for Rocky to leave for the city to follow his dreams, Louie and his family make lots of preparations to send him off and finally Louie makes Rocky a special gift to remind him that he will always return to the place where he belongs.

A heartfelt story about the bond between two brothers and their special connection to country. Illustrated by CBCA award-winning picture-book creator Dub Leffler, and written by acclaimed singer/storyteller Phil Walleystack and award-winning children's author Raewyn Caisley.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATOR

Phil Wallestack is a singer/songwriter, musician, writer, entrepreneur and ambassador for Aboriginal arts in Western Australia. For the past decade Phil has been performing in the USA, Middle East, Germany, France, China, Indonesia and Malaysia. Phil is also a presenter and cultural advisor for the popular NITV series Aussie Bush Tales and a broadcaster at 100.gfm Noongar Radio for the national radio program *Indigenous Beats*, promoting Aboriginal music and artists. Phil was raised in country Western Australia, where he was taught traditional songs and dance and how to survive in the bush by his elders. He is passionate about promoting reconciliation and diversity through sharing stories of Noongar culture and celebrating differences between cultures.

Raewyn Caisley has spent her life in Australia and New Zealand. When she was young the bush was where she felt completely at peace. She loved the sounds and smells, the animals and birds. It was a quiet, sacred place and she knew it should be treasured. She's written so many books now she needs to buy a bigger bookshelf. Many of them have been about kids living in special places. She thinks it's really important we learn to see the world through each others' eyes. Raewyn's books have won or been shortlisted for many awards. Her picture books include *Hello From Nowhere* and *Something Wonderful*.

Dub Leffler is descended from the Bigambul people of south-west Queensland. He began his visual arts career as an animator and has worked as a muralist and art teacher and collaborated with internationally recognised artists such as Colin Thompson, Shaun Tan and Banksy. He has illustrated twenty-three books for children, including *Sorry Day*, by Coral Vass, which won the 2019 CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, and *Black Cockatoo*, by Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler, which was a 2019 CBCA Honour Book. He is also the author/illustrator of the acclaimed picture book, *Once There Was a Boy*. He travels around Australia and the world helping children make illustrations of their own.

Activities

1. Ask students to write a paragraph saying what they think the story is about. Then discuss in groups or as a class. The differing range of answers will be telling and will trigger a great discussion.
2. *My Place*
Ask students to close their eyes and take themselves to a place that has strong feelings associated with it. Strongly happy, sad, even scared. It can be their grandma's house, the

country they were born in, even their bedroom. Then ask them to finish the following sentences:

The air is _____ and _____.

The light is _____.

I feel _____ (body, not heart).

I can hear _____.

I see _____.

I can smell _____.

When I touch _____ it makes me feel _____.

(Last of all ask students to say something that shows how they feel. For example, 'I never want to leave,' or 'Help! Get me out of here!')

3. Read *Rocky and Louie* to your class without showing them the illustrations at first, then ask students to respond by drawing what they thought the illustrations should look like.
4. Ask students to put in their own words what they think belonging to country means.
5. Sequencing activities: take 6 chunks of text and students have to put them in the right order, then draw in response to the text.
6. Invite an Aboriginal performer or artist to the school.
7. Ask students to write a letter to Louie, telling him what they think of his life, in his place, and describing their own for him in turn.

Questions

Look at the language the authors have used in *Rocky and Louie*.

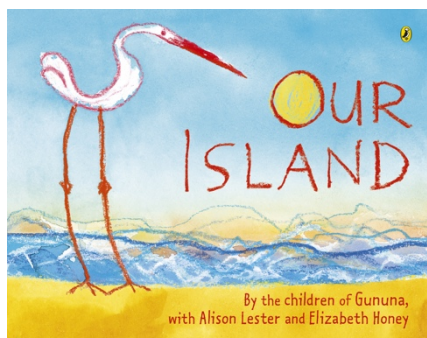
1. How can you have a 'little cool fire' and how can a fire be *hungry*?
2. What do the authors mean when they say that when Louie lies down on a cool, flat rock it is like 'resting his head against his mother's chest'?
3. Why does Rocky say 'you have to think about where your tucker comes from'?
4. Finally, what do you think 'belonging to country' means?

Activity

Organise an excursion to get out on country with local Aboriginal elders, whoever and wherever they are.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Our Island
by the children of Gununa
with Alison Lester and
Elizabeth Honey

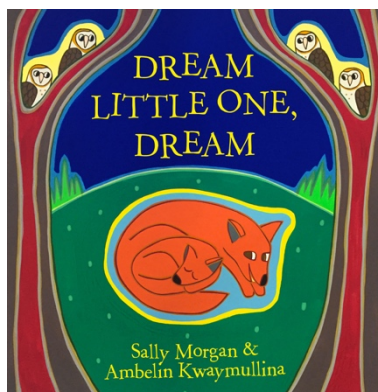
Why this story? Read it as another example of a collaboration between much-loved children's picture-book creators, in this case, former Children's Laureate and beloved children's author Alison Lester and acclaimed author-illustrator Elizabeth Honey.

In this lyrical celebration of place, the children of Mornington Island explore their home in words and pictures.

Our island lies beneath a big blue sky, surrounded by the turquoise sea. Turtles glide through the clear salt water, and dugongs graze on banks of seagrass.

All royalties from *Our Island* and one dollar from the sale of each copy are donated to Mornington Island State School to fund art projects in the community.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)

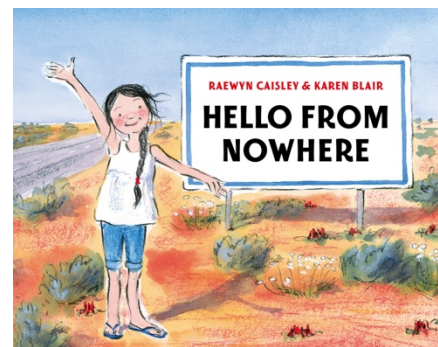


Dream Little One, Dream
by Sally Morgan and
Ambelin Kwaymullina

Why this story? From sunrise to night-time, celebrate the wonders of nature with this rhythmic and radiant bedtime story by Sally Morgan and Ambelin Kwaymullina.

When Moon shines and earth breathes a breath of deepest night dream, little one, dream into the peace of a wonderful world.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



Hello from Nowhere
by Raewyn Caisley and
Karen Blair

Why this story? Read another moving celebration of the Australian outback and the special connection between grandparent and grandchild.

Eve thought that living in the middle of nowhere was better than living anywhere else in the world . . . Only one thing made Eve sad. She hadn't seen Nan since they left the city long ago.

Eve lives in a roadhouse in the middle of the Nullarbor and when her Nan visits one day, Eve shows her all the things that are special about where she lives.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QT Y	TOTAL
Rocky and Louie	Phil Wallestack, Raewyn Caisley and Dub Leffler	HB 9780143786528	K-2	\$24.99		
Our Island	Children of Gununa with Alison Lester and Elizabeth Honey	HB 9780670077687 (PB 9780143505938)	K-2	HB \$24.99 (PB \$14.99)		
Dream Little One, Dream	Sally Morgan & Ambelin Kwaymullina	HB 9780670078868 PB 9780143507215	K-2	HB \$24.99 (PB \$14.99)		
Hello from Nowhere	Raewyn Caisley & Karen Blair	9781760897734	K-2	\$14.99		
TOTAL						

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